GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4947
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
CUSTOMS TARIFF
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether India has rejected the move of developed economics led by US, EuropeanUnion and Japan at World Trade Organisation for customs tariff harmonization and zero to zero rate regime;

(b) whether India has also initiated a campaign for elimination of non-tariff barriers put up by these three major industrialised countries and blocks to prevent market access for products and services from developed; and

(c) if so, the response received for the campaign initiated by India from developing nations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (c): US, EC and Japan along with other WTO Members have submitted proposals in the WTO negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products. These proposals include suggestions for harmonization of tariffs or for `zero for zero` initiatives in certain sectors. Since at this stage of the negotiations Members are submitting proposals, no decision on acceptance or otherwise of the same has been taken in the WTO. However, India in its initial submission to the Negotiating Group as also in its interventions during the discussions has flagged its concern regarding the `zero for zero` or `tariff harmonization` proposals.

Non-tariff barriers are also to be addressed in these negotiations. India will appropriately take up the removal or elimination of the particular non-tariff barriers affecting its exports.